

GREAT TRUST CONFERENCE OPENS IN CHICAGO; ANTI-TRUST MEN WIN FIRST VICTORY AND NAME OFFICERS.

Delegates Suspicious of the Civic Federation at Whose Invitation the Conference Is Being Held. Noted Political Students Present.

The Civic Federation, which called the conference, has come under grave suspicion of subservience to the very corporate and monopoly interests it was created to oppose. Consequently the majority of the conference has appeared very sensitive of any attempted shaping of its proceedings by those that called it together.

Instead of allowing the temporary chairman, Franklin H. Head, president of the Civic Federation, to select the Committee on Permanent Organization and Programme, it was decided that a member should be selected by the representatives of each State and of each national labor or other organization present.

This committee has selected as permanent president and judge William Wirt Howe, of New Orleans, ex-president of the American Bar Association, who has not apparently taken any decided stand on the trust question, and as vice-presidents who are to preside at some of the meetings Stephen B. Corliss, of the Commercial Travelers' Association, New York; Mayor Henry V. Johnson, of Denver, who holds views favorable to city ownership of local monopolies somewhat like his cousin, Tom S. Johnson, and as third vice-president Dudley Wooten, of Texas, who made a strong attack on trusts this afternoon.

The important sub-committee on programme consists of the veteran Senator Blair, of New Hampshire; the Democratic Congressman, S. D. Sutherland, of Nebraska, and John W. Gaines, of Tennessee, together with A. B. Davidson, of Texas, and as representative of the Farmers' Alliance J. C. Hanley, of Minnesota.

From New York are present W. Bourke Cockran, Albert Shaw, George Gunton, Henry White, of the Garment Workers; Professor John B. Clark, of Columbia University; J. W. Jenks, of Cornell; John McMackin, Commissioner of Labor Statistics; Professor John R. Commons, of the new Bureau of Economic Research, of New York City; Thomas H. Osborne, a manufacturer of Auburn, and Robert B. Adam, a merchant of Buffalo. Scarcely any are present from New England save Senator Blair and Dr. John Graham Brooks, of Cambridge, Mass. Bryan is expected to-morrow.

Widely Divergent Views.

It is already evident that nearly every one has come prepared for a speech, and that the most divergent views are held by the delegates. Some lively times are expected and some valuable educational work may be done.

The papers to-day were of a high order, though not of a very positive character. Professor Jenks, who is helping the Industrial Commission in its investigation of trusts, confined himself to showing how many facts and tendencies are still unknown in the trust question.

It was a good outline of points needing investigation, though evidently written from a conservative standpoint. How far is competition abolished by the combinations we see around us? How does the combination of capital differ from that of labor, if indeed it does differ? How far is the trust caused by tariff and railroad discriminations? How far by the fierceness of competition? How shall we treat the overcapitalization of trusts and what are their effects on prices, wages and the middle-man, and should our legislation be repressive of trusts or regulative? These were the points Professor Jenks called upon the conference to consider.

Professor Henry C. Adams, of the University of Michigan, gave a liberal and strong address. He said in part:

"Manufacturing combinations contribute nothing to the cost of manufacture beyond what would be contributed should each of the industries

continue its independent competitive existence.

A Study of Trusts.

"The motive to a trust organization of manufacturing industries is not found in a desire to benefit the public by the reduction of cost. As to the claim that the trust will regulate the output according to demand and prevent overproduction, it may be said that a stocked market is due to an un-economic distribution of values, and not to overproduction of goods. It certainly is true that goods cannot be sold when the property in the goods, as also the money with which to purchase them, is in the same hands. A steady market implies an equation between goods on the one hand and purchasing power in the hands of those for whom the goods are made on the other. You perceive at once the bearing of this line of reasoning upon the claim that combinations tend to steadiness of trade.

"An adjustment of the output to the current effective demand is of the utmost importance. It may be questioned, however, whether a yet further concentration of industrial power than that which now exists is the best means of attaining this result.

"In addition to these purely industrial considerations it is necessary to inquire respecting the general social and political results of trust organization before one can accept them as healthful tendencies in modern life. It must be remembered that our industrial society rests upon English jurisprudence, that English jurisprudence acknowledges the individual as the centre of all industrial activity, that it provides for his institution of private property, holds him to strict accountability and assumes that competition between producers on the one hand and purchasers on the other hand is a guaranty of justice and equity in all individual conduct. Do trusts fit naturally into this theory of society?

"For the preservation of Democracy there must be maintained a fair degree of equality in the social standing of partisans. Do trusts tend to such equality? For the normal workings of that industrial society which is the product of six centuries of history the door of opportunity must not be closed. Do trusts tend to close the door of opportunity? For the realization of the American idea of government there must be a balance of power and the interests that lie outside the Government, on the other hand. Do trusts tend to destroy this balance of power?

Some Debatable Questions.

"I would not claim without discussion that the trust organization of society destroys reasonable equality, closed the door of industrial opportunity or tends to disarrange that fine balance essential to the successful workings of an automatic society, but I do assert that the questions here presented are debatable questions and that the burden of proof lies with the advocates of this new form of business organization.

"If the current tendency toward consolidation in manufacturing industries does not spring from the nature of the industry, and if the benefits accruing to the public from these consolidations are at least questionable, it is incumbent upon us next to inquire out of what conditions these modern industrial organizations have sprung. I shall venture but three suggestions in this connection. Doubtless many more will be presented as this convention proceeds in its deliberations.

"The inequalities which exist in establishing schedules of railway rates, as also the progress of railways to depart from published schedules in order to secure the business of large shippers, works toward the consolidation of manufacturing industries and commercial enterprises.

"It is not intended to say that railroad administration on the part of railways is of itself responsible for present industrial tendencies. It is, however, true, that in so far as railways discriminate in favor of large shippers they present a motive to shippers to become as large as possible. This is too familiar a fact to call for discussion. The truth is that the business of transportation underlies all other business; it determines the conditions upon which other forms of industry are carried on, and by the manipulation of rate schedules tone, color and character can be given to industrial society at large.

THE DELEGATES AND THEIR OBJECT.

Chicago, Sept. 13.—The conference was called by the Civic Federation of this city. The object of the gathering was a full discussion of the subject of trusts and commercial combinations. The call of the federation was made to Governors and commercial bodies throughout the country, and the delegates received their commissions from these. Among the leading delegates are:

Governor G. W. Atkinson, of West Virginia; Attorney-General W. L. Taylor, of Indiana; Attorney-General E. B. Hicks, of Wisconsin; Attorney-General C. R. Gatch, of Maryland; Attorney-General C. J. Smythe, of Nebraska; Attorney-General E. C. Crow, of Missouri; Attorney-General A. A. Gould, of Kansas; Attorney-General C. B. Nolan, of Montana; Attorney-General W. B. Douglass, of Minnesota; Attorney-General Jefferson Davis, of Arkansas; Attorney-General Horace W. Oren, of Michigan; Congressman James C. Shreve, of Utah, N. Y.; Congressman L. E. Livingston, of Atlanta, Ga.; Congressman S. W. Smith, of Pontiac, Mich.; Congressman A. M. Todd, of Kalamazoo, Mich.; Congressman E. G. Crumacker, of Valparaiso, Ind.; Congressman John A. C. Hull, of Des Moines, Iowa; Congressman J. P. Breckinridge, of Virginia, Minn.; Congressman J. H. Davidson, of Oshkosh, Wis.; Congressman George W. Prince, of Galesburg, Ill.; Congressman E. L. Hamilton, of Niles, Mich.; Edward Rosewater, of Omaha; George W. Barber, of Detroit; Professor A. W. Small, of the University of Chicago; Professor John R. Commons, of Syracuse, N. Y.; Professor R. T. Ely, of Madison, Wis.; Professor John Clark, of Cornell College, New York; President J. E. Forbes, of Stetson University, Florida; Professor A. W. Rogers, of the University of Maine; Professor Frank McKinley, of the University of Illinois; William Wirt Howe, of New Orleans; A. W. Edwards, of Fargo, N. D.; ex-Governor Foster, of Ohio; Bourke Cockran, of New York; John L. Griffith, of Indianapolis; Charles L. Lane, of Fort Wayne; Judge R. S. Taylor, of Indiana; Major John W. Henshaw, of West Virginia; James L. Gamble, of Cincinnati; John W. Gaines, of Tennessee; John L. Yellott, of Joliet; Congressman W. F. Brackenridge, of Lexington, Ky.; Congressman Snodgrass, of Tennessee; John I. Yellott, of Baltimore, Md.; M. M. Garland, of Pittsburgh; Frank Springer, of New Mexico; ex-Senator Henry W. Blair, of New Hampshire; Henry C. Adams, of Ann Arbor, Mich.; Professor W. F. Jones, of Attorney-General Akin, of Illinois; Captain W. P. Black, Professor E. W. Bellis, of Kansas; Albert Shaw, of New York; Congressman James R. Mann, Congressman George E. Foss, Congressman E. T. Noonan, of Chicago; Luther Lathin Mills, W. A. Giles, Alderman Nelson L. Lombard, Benjamin R. Tucker, of New York; Professor Graham Taylor, of Chicago; ex-Mayor John P. Hopkins, of Chicago; John W. Hayes, Congressman Sutherland, of Kansas.



Professor Edward W. Bemis.

AN INCOME TAX UPON MONOPOLIES.

Chicago, Sept. 13.—Attorney-General Douglas, of Minnesota, will introduce the following resolution in the Trust Convention:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this conference that, as a partial check to the growth of dangerous combinations of capital, Congress propose for ratification or rejection an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the imposition by Congress of a direct graduated income tax on such corporations or associations as are engaged in the manufacture or sale of any commodity which is the subject of a monopoly.

The Conference on Trusts called by the Civic Federation of Chicago opened yesterday.

Delegates named by the Governors of thirty States and by various trades and labor organizations are in attendance.

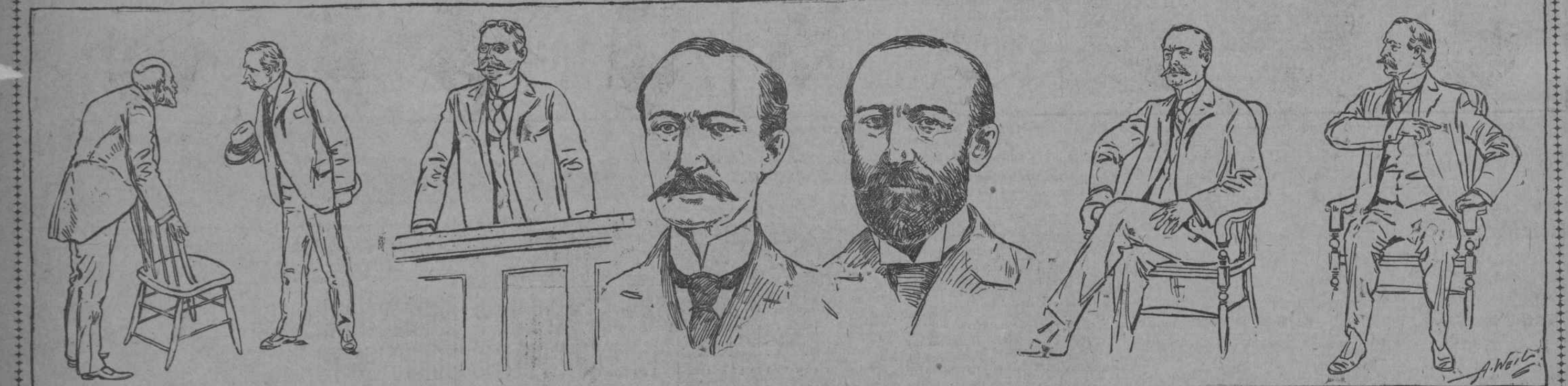
The anti-trust element controlled the Committee on Organization and selected the officers.

The conference will be reported for the Journal by Professor Edward W. Bemis, formerly professor of political economy in the University of Chicago, and who was forced to resign from that Rockefeller institution for his advocacy of municipal ownership.

By Professor Edward W. Bemis.

Chicago, Sept. 13.—About 300 delegates, chosen by the Governors of nearly thirty States and numerous boards of trade and labor organizations, began a four days conference on trusts at Central Music Hall to-day. Former Governor Altgeld refused to be a delegate on the ground that the conference was a clever device of conservative Republicans to weaken the trust issue by confusion of counsel, and by giving a large place in the conference to trust delegates.

SENATOR PLATT'S SON "PLEASES" TO TALK FOR THE MAZETEERS AND GETS OFF EASILY



FRANK H. PLATT BEFORE THE MAZET COMMITTEE—HE RECEIVES OBSEQUIOUS ATTENTION FROM MAZET AND MOSS. Attitudes of Frank Platt on the Witness Stand.

criticism," said Mr. Moss, "but we hope to clear this matter up so that all those who are free from blame will be held blameless. This is not an ordinary matter, and all connected with it must submit themselves to scrutiny. If we accept this list with the proviso to keep it secret, we will subject our own conduct to criticism. We have no right to keep the public in ignorance of anything we do."

Journal Seizes Grip.

The proceedings begun by the Journal to annul the charter of the Ramapo Company had badly frightened the men whose scheme it is.

Former Senator David B. Hill's forcible presentation of the case against the company in behalf of the Journal has rattled them. The fact that Mr. Hill's brief had been filed with the Attorney-General, whose decision is now awaited, was another reason why secrecy was sought.

With a great fear of these proceedings and of Mr. Hill in his heart, Mr. Lauterbach referred in this fashion to the Journal:

"One of the bitterest enemies of the company, who has a powerful newspaper, and who is a man of marvelous influence, is seeking to destroy the life of the company. We do not want to furnish him with ammunition. He has become a stockholder of the company."

Mr. Moss said: "That is a matter of private difference with which the committee has nothing to do."

He then handed back the list to Mr. Lauterbach, with the statement that he did not care to accept it with any conditions.

The plot had failed. It had gone down and had carried the Ramapo combine with it. Mr. Lauterbach looked like a badly beaten man. He put the list back into his pocket.

Now Moss Has His Cue.

His hand trembled. He had exposed his cards without result. He had publicly informed the committee that he had a list of the stockholders.

When he is called as a witness he will be asked to produce that list. He will not be able to wriggle out by saying that it is locked up in a safe and somebody else has the key.

He had practically accused Mr. Dutcher of misreading the committee, for a few minutes before Mr. Dutcher had told Mr. Moss that he did not have the stock list. He said it was in the custody of Secretary L. A. Mead, who was out of the city.

In every way the failure of the plot was a bad thing for the company.

Chairman Mazet still appeared to be in the dark as to the plot. He showed a disposition to over-courteous to Mr. Lauterbach. For this reason he promised to talk the matter over with counsel, and ultimately dispose of it a little later. This

talk will take place this morning.

After Mr. Moss's flat statement that the list must not be accepted without conditions, it is not likely that the committee will overrule him. If he is overruled the investigation into the Ramapo matter ends.

President Dutcher on the Rack.

It was late in the afternoon when Mr. Dutcher was called to the witness chair. He plumped into it with a benign expression on his broad face.

He said he had been president of the Ramapo company since June, 1897. Lawyer Ingraham, of the company's counsel, had suggested that he take some stock, and he did so.

Q. Did you consult with any person in political life?

A. No.

Q. Were you asked by General Tracy, directly or indirectly, to become his successor?

A. Several hundred shares.

Q. From whom did you buy the stock? A. I do not see any necessity for stating that.

Q. Is there any reason why you shouldn't state it?

A. I think it is only my business.

Mr. Moss repeated the question. Mr. Dutcher hesitated. Finally he said he would not answer it at this time.

Q. We asked you the subpoena to bring the stock book of the company. Have you done so?

A. No.

Q. Why not? A. The stock book is in the custody of Secretary L. A. Mead, of the company.

Q. Do you mean to help us get that stock book and the list of stockholders? A. I mean to help you to get everything I think you are entitled to.

At this point Mr. Lauterbach stood up and sprung his trap.

CORD MEYER CONTRACT A STANDING MENACE.

AMONG the other witnesses examined by the Borough of Queens.

A good deal of significance is placed on the water situation in that borough. The contract of the city with Cord Meyer's company is said to be built on the lines of the contract the Ramapo Company sought to get with the city.

The fact that a company has such a contract is deemed dangerous, because Mr. Moss, the Ramapo Company could go to Europe, Creek and execute the contract with the city in spite of the courts.

It is said that Mr. Meyer got \$44,000 from the

taxpayers of Queens, which was the exact amount of the deficit there.

Lucien Knapp, former treasurer of Queens County, said that for \$300,000 an additional water supply of 3,000,000 gallons a day could be supplied.

President F. C. Moore, of the Continental Insurance Company, and a member of the Water Supply Committee of the Board of Underwriters, said that it would be impossible to deliver water to this city at three hundred feet pressure. He regarded this clause in the Ramapo contract as an attempt to deceive.

Among the other witnesses examined was Alfred T. White, former Water Commissioner of Brooklyn. He said that General Tracy had spoken to him about the Ramapo scheme and he understood the General to ask him if he was willing to go into the company.

When the witness reached the rail the preceding witness had not yet vacated the stand, and Mr. Moss cleared off a chair and invited Mr. Platt to sit down.

Chairman Mazet beamed obsequiously through his eyeglasses. Committee-men Fallows, Costello and Wilson all bowed and smiled. Finally Mr. Platt was sworn in a manner indicating his superiority to oaths and small matters of that character. He did not rise when he swore to tell the truth.

In reply to questions by Mr. Moss he said:

"Mr. Platt will you please take the witness chair?"

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"Young Mr. Platt," as he is called, because he is younger than his father, is not very young. His appearance indicates that he is nearer fifty than forty. He is spare in form and his figure is stooped. It is out on the same lines as the Senator, to whom his face and head bear a striking resemblance. His attitude, his gestures and his voice all resemble the Senator.

He made an excellent witness in that he did not tell much, but what he did tell appeared to be all there was to say about it.

There was a ring of deep respect in Mr. Moss's voice when he said:

"Mr. Platt will you please take the witness chair?"

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Q. Have you heard that he owns \$100,000 worth of its stock? A. I know nothing of it.

Q. Do you own any stock in the company? A. None.

Q. Did you ever own any? A. No.

Mr. Platt did not remember whether his firm ever did any work for President Dutcher, of the company.

Mr. Platt said his firm does not represent the telephone company nor the Standard Oil Company. He denied that it had ever represented the coal trust of Armour & Co. He admitted that it represents the Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland.

Q. That is called Platt's Surety Company? A. Some people call it that.

He also admitted that his firm was interested in passing the Astoria bill at the last session. Chairman Mazet had handled this bill, and there were rumors that large sums had been used to pass it.

Worked to Pass the Bill.

"I did not could to pass that bill," said Mr. Platt warmly.

Mr. Moss disapproved of Mr. Hoffman's manner, which was sharp and slightly domineering. Mr. Hoffman took no notice of Mr. Moss.

He wanted to know if the Raines Liquor Tax law was enacted in the interest of the Fidelity Insurance company. He got at the subject in this way:

Q. Did you conceive the Raines law? A. No.

Q. Was its purpose to bring business to the Platt surety company? A. No, sir.

Its purpose was to take the saloons out of the power of Tammany Hall to blackmail them.

Q. Isn't it a fact that the so-called Platt Surety Company?

Mr. Platt—Oh, let him go on. It's his opportunity. I want to say that Senator Platt never had anything to do with the surety company.

Mr. Platt said he had appeared before the Railroad Commission for only one client. He admitted having opposed the anti-trust bill.

Q. Didn't you prepare an amendment to that bill? A. I don't remember.

Q. What corporations are you financially interested in? A. The United States Express Company, the Fidelity Deposit Company, the American Composition Company, the Republic Iron and Steel Company and a few others that I don't now recall.

Q. Didn't you have some difficulty with Governor Black about the anti-trust bill? A. No.

Q. Didn't you tell him you would see that he was not re-nominated if he signed that bill? A. No.

Governor Black did sign the bill and he was not re-nominated.

Sweet, refreshing sleep comes only to the dyspeptic who uses Johnson's Digestive Tablets.

LIPTON'S YACHT ERIN TO BE ILLUMINATED.

Will Be Outfitted by Electric Lights on the Night of Dewey's Return.

While Sir Thomas Lipton deprecates his inability to do more in recognition of Admiral Dewey's arrival, he has planned an illumination of his yacht Erin which involves the use of 3,000 incandescent electric lights.

On the night of the marine demonstration in Dewey's honor the Erin will wear a rope of electric lamps from the water forward up her prow line to the bow, to the top of her foremast, thence to the top of the mainmast and thence to the stern, following the stern line to the water's edge. Comprising the yacht from stem to stern, on the water line and along the bulwarks, Mr. Lipton appears to have been redoubled by the darkness.

Colonel Bryan Returns from the Yosemite.

To Begin a Two Weeks' Speech-Making Campaign in Nebraska Next Month.

Lincoln, Neb., Sept. 13.—William J. Bryan and family returned to Lincoln this morning after a two weeks' trip to Yosemite Valley and other portions of California.